

2009 SMITH RIVER STATE PARK & RIVER CORRIDOR
LAUNCH APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- **READ THIS INFORMATION COMPLETELY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**
- **PHOTOCOPIES OF THE APPLICATION ARE ACCEPTABLE**
- **MAIL APPLICATION WITH FEE ONLY**

Please call the Smith River State Park office in Great Falls, Montana for any additional questions: (406) 454-5840

- ▶ **To apply for a private float permit for Smith River Park & River Corridor**, fill out the attached application and return to
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Smith River Drawing
1420 East 6th Ave.
PO Box 8009
Helena MT 59620-8009

All applications must be **POSTMARKED** or submitted on or before Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

- ▶ The total application fee for **Montana Residents is \$30.00** and the **Non-Resident fee is \$55.00**. These application fees must accompany each application. The fee (minus the \$5.00 non-refundable drawing fee) will be credited towards your float fee if you are a successful applicant. All unsuccessful applicants will receive a refund (minus the drawing fee) unless you decide to donate your fee to the Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA) via the check-off box provided on the application. The CEA is an account set up to provide long-term protection of Smith State Park & River Corridor. If you are unsuccessful in the drawing and choose to donate your fee to the CEA you still have the opportunity to use that money as a credit to float during the 2009 season if you ultimately are able to float the Smith River with another permit holder or pick up a cancelled launch.
- ▶ To simplify the application process, the application fees are standardized at \$30.00 for Montana residents and \$55.00 for Non-residents. The actual float fees, to be paid during registration at Camp Baker on the launch day are as follow.

Under 6 years (resident/non-resident)	FREE
6-12 years (resident/non-resident)	\$15.00
13 and older (resident)	\$25.00
13 and older (non-resident)	\$50.00
- ▶ You may submit only **one application per person**. Submittal of more than one application per person will disqualify those applications from the drawing. You may submit up to three different launch dates on your application in the priority of first, second and third choices. Only one date can be chosen via the drawing process and it is based on your order of choice and the availability of a launch for that specific date.
- ▶ The drawing will be conducted in late February 2009. Results will be mailed in early March. Successful applicants will receive a permit with a floater packet. Unsuccessful applicants will receive a refund (or a post card if you chose to donate your fee to the CEA). **Please contact the Smith River Reservation Line at (406) 454-5861 if you do not receive one of these notifications in the mail by March 31, 2009.** Results of the drawing will be made available in early March on the FWP web site at: <http://fwp.mt.gov>
- ▶ Beginning on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009** you may call the Smith River Reservation Line at (406) 454-5861 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon MST to:
 1. Request any remaining launch dates that may be available
 2. Pick up a cancelled launch date
 3. Cancel a launch date
- ▶ Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Permit holders must bring photo ID to the put-in. Permit holders must cancel their permit if they are not going to use their launch regardless of weather or water flows above 100 cfs. **Failure to cancel a permit at least 2 days prior to your launch date, at flows above 100 cfs, will result in losing next years' privileges for the Smith River permit drawing.**

NOTE: Please submit either of these two application fees ONLY with your completed application:

Montana Residents (all ages) \$30.00 total application fee (Personal checks accepted)

Non-Residents (all ages) \$55.00 total application fee (Personal checks not accepted. Cashiers check or Money Order only.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

COMMON QUESTIONS:

Q. WHEN IS THE FLOAT SEASON? The float season varies widely depending on snow pack, rainfall and amount and timing of irrigation. The "typical" float season runs from mid April thru July 4th with occasional floating occurring in September and October. ***Be prepared for any and all types of weather especially rain and snow early in the float season.***

Q. IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF FLOATERS PER GROUP? Yes! The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has set a limit of 9 groups launching each day. Of these launches, one launch per day is allocated to outfitted groups, except from the last week of May through the first week of July when 2 outfitted groups are permitted on Sundays and Wednesdays, the rest are private launches. There is a group size limit of 15 people. In order to help us continue to comply with our Smith River Management Plan standards for average group size, we ask that you voluntarily consider limiting your group size to **eight people or less.**

During the peak use period of June 10 through July 10, floaters are limited to no more than four nights of camping; also five private and/or outfitted cancellations during each week of the peak use period will not be reassigned to floaters during the peak period. Unallocated outfitted launches are available to all floaters one week before the launch date if all five cancellations per week between June 10 and July 10 have been fulfilled.

Q. WHAT KIND OF BOATS CAN BE USED ON THE SMITH? Non-motorized use only! Rafts are used by 71% of floaters and canoes used about 15% of the time. These are the most appropriate craft although drift boats, inflatable kayaks, and hard-sided kayaks are also taken down the river.

Q. HOW MANY DAYS DOES IT TAKE TO FLOAT THE SMITH? The float is 59 river miles from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge. A minimum of two nights and three full days should be planned for at normal water levels (350 +cfs) with most floaters taking 4 to 5 days. Factor in how much you plan to fish or hike, probable river flows, how many miles you want to cover in a day and what type of float experience you are seeking. Large drift boats and catarafts generally begin to have trouble at river flows below 350 CFS, rafts below 250 CFS and canoes below 150 CFS. This does not mean that different watercraft types will not have trouble floating at levels above those given. These are estimated levels listed to assist floaters in planning their trip. Remember this is a river that is always changing and you should adjust accordingly.

Q. WHAT ABOUT DECLARING BOAT CAMPS? During the registration process, every group selects designated boat camps, based upon availability, for each night on the river. Registration and boat camp selection is completed the morning of your scheduled launch based upon the order of arrival to the Camp Baker put-in. Once you arrive at Camp Baker, report directly to the Ranger Station office to sign in. A daily sign-in sheet is contained in a metal box located on the porch of the Ranger Station office.

Q. IS THEIR WHITEWATER ON THE SMITH? There is one section of class II whitewater at mile 47 and a tricky area at mile 49. However, the Smith always moves quickly with sharp turns, rocky shallows and snags partially across the river. You should have at least intermediate boating and camping experience before floating the Smith.

Q. WHAT IS THE SMITH RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT? 5% of all floater fees and \$50 from each outfitted client is placed in this account to "better manage and protect the river corridor". Funds from this account will be used for long-term protection strategies for the river corridor. You may select to donate your floater fee to this account by checking the box on the application form. If you are successful and receive a permit your money will be credited toward your float fee. But if you are unsuccessful the entire fee will then be donated toward the enhancement account if you check the box.

If you have any questions or would like any more information regarding the drawing, please call Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (406) 454-5840 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. MST, Monday through Friday.